

Skatepark Advisory Task Force

Meeting Summary

3/16/2006

Task Force Members Present: *Joe Bell, George Blomberg, John Carr, Susanne Friedman, Jelani Jackson, Matt Johnston, Jeanne Krikawa, Christine Larsen, Joyce Moty, Scott Shinn, Nin Troung*

Guests: *Catherine Anstett, Susan Golub, Scott MacColl, Tatsuo Nakata, Peter Whitley*

Introductions

Susanne Friedman, Parks staff, started the meeting off by welcoming everyone to the Task Force (T.F.). Those in attendance introduced themselves, spoke about their background and what they bring to the T.F. Ms. Friedman then outlined the "Rules of Engagement", which the T.F. agreed to abide by at all future meetings.

Public Comments

Peter Whitley introduced himself, stating that he had no comments at this time, but was present to listen and learn.

Review of Background Material

Recap of City Council Resolution,
Draft Consultant Scope of Work,
Project Timeline,
Public Outreach Plan,

The T.F. was familiar with the resolution and draft scope of work, which had been sent out earlier. The majority of the discussion focused around the project timeline and public outreach plan, but the necessity for gathering demographic information and developing an educational component for the public meetings were also discussed.

Get the 'older' crowd and businesses educated – dispel the myth, but also listen if they say, 'not in this park.' Good visibility is necessary for a safe park environment. Different ages should be able to mix – little kids, older kids, young adolescents and folks who just want to observe. Parks need to be easily accessible by bus for the younger children. Having parks located with some overhead cover in this environment would extend the use hours of the park – Marginal Way was one example, I-5 Colonnade with a mix of users might be interesting.

At the first round of public meetings, establishing site criteria, integrated with the community is important. It helps to have proponents at the public meetings, such as senior citizens from Ballard who signed the petition. The question is, "what does it take for this (skatepark) to be a good neighbor?" Process, research, filter, apply, make site selection. Think it is necessary to have a non-Parks facilitator at the public meetings.

The T.F. and consultant need to be very clear in the message that this process is not delivering skateparks, but creating a master plan of where they will go in the future.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

A discussion was had on lessons learned with previous efforts, such as Ballard Bowl and Lower Woodland, and that perhaps a 'skate-neutral' consultant might be good – an objective party needs to do diligent research and be strong in overall planning – this is not a skatepark design exercise.

One point on the draft RFQ was to have an assessment of need – a map of where the kids are in the city, perhaps a GIS generated map, but to not get focused on specific locations but rather to look at the city as a whole – # kids/total population. Referencing national trends would also be critical.

Discussion was had on firms that were interested in the project, their strengths and weaknesses, and what the T.F. felt was important. The T.F. agreed to have a subgroup for the consultant screening process & RFQ – Scott Shinn, John Carr, Tatsuo Nakata and Susanne Friedman will review the RFQ's and make a consultant selection on behalf of the T.F.

Key Points

- Have a white board present at future meetings for folks to write down key issues that come up at the meetings.
- One of the public meetings should be held during the day, so as to encourage the participation of children.
- Utilize the website to solicit input and to disseminate public information.
- Public outreach should include the (T.F.) getting out to District and Community Councils. Tap into the network, utilize SPAC to communicate project information.
- Education is the key to dispelling the myth. Need to be reaching the 'older crowd,' businesses and neighbors.
- The project needs to be clear in its message of 'what does it take to be a good neighbor' (reference to the development of responsive siting criteria, the development of appropriate skate typologies and the application to specific sites).
- This process is not about delivering skateparks, but about the development of a strategic plan for the future development of skateparks in Seattle.
- John Carr will lead a skatepark field trip for those interested – information to be sent out.

Next Meeting Date

4/20/2006

100 Dexter, Park Board Room

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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